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21 OCT 1965

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**The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance**  
**Deputy Secretary of Defense**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**Dear Cy:**

We have both received a memorandum from Dr. McKillan detailing his proposal for modernization of the existing CIA/SAC U-2 pool and post-ponement of additional U-2 procurement. Using attrition rates experienced thus far, it would appear that the total U-2 fleet would drop to approximately half of its present strength before new aircraft ordered a year from now would be available, and that the total number would never reach the minimum acceptable [redacted] recommended by Generals Ledford and Geary, if the older aircraft are retired as they propose.

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I do not wish to prejudge this proposal, but do believe that it deserves our careful consideration in the Executive Committee before implementation, since I anticipate a continuing and perhaps increasing need for U-2 reconnaissance coverage round the world.

**Sincerely,**

(signed) W. F. Raborn

**W. F. Raborn**  
**Director**

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